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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,269	02/08/2001	Yoshinobu Murai	P/126-199	4115

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, JAKIEDA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/779,269

Applicant(s)

MURAI, YOSHINOBU

Examiner

Jakieda R Jackson

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Page 9, 1st paragraph, the word "a" between the words "to" and "audible" should be --an--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. **Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15** are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - In **claim 2**, there is a period (.) missing and it should be placed at the end of the sentence.
 - In **claim 9**, there is a semicolon (;) missing after detection means on the line beginning "a start button".
 - In **claims 1, 3, 8-10 and 15**, "voiced" message should be --voice-- or --spoken--.
 - In **claims 1, 3, 9 and 10**, "take out" is playback selection.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirohama (U.S. Patent No. 5,797,125).

Regarding **claim 1**, Hirohama discloses a portable voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33), which reproduces and outputs a voice message (column 4, lines 40-53) selected from a plurality of kinds of voice-data to be data for voice messages (column 1, lines 55-57), comprising:

a detection means (receiver; figure 3, element 29) detecting a signal received from outside corresponding to the voice message (column 3, lines 52-53);

a storage means (figure 2, element 12) storing the voice-data (column 3, lines 19-25);

a take-out means (control means; figure 2, element 11) taking out (read out) a kind of the voice-data from said voice-data storage corresponding to the signal detected by said detection means (column 1, lines 57-63 and column 2, lines 28-31);
and

a voice reproduction means (D/A converting section; figure 2, element 21) converting the voice-data received from said take-out means to an audible signal of the

voice message (column 3, lines 38-40), and reproducing and outputting the reproduced voiced message outside (column 4, lines 40-48).

Regarding **claim 2**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer further comprising a start button (keys) beginning of execution of said detection means (column 3, lines 25-29 and column 4, lines 1-16). It is inherent that the "selection means consisting of ten keys" would provide a start button to select one of the booths and once the desired booth is selected, the chosen booth will begin delivering the information.

Regarding **claim 3**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33), which reproduces and outputs a voice message (column 4, lines 40-53) selected from a plurality of kinds of voice-data to be data for voice messages (column 1, lines 55-57), comprising:

- a control signal detector (control means; figure 2, element 11) receiving and detecting a control signal, which is received from outside and prepared for use of selection of one kind of the voice-data corresponding to each voice message (column 1, lines 57-63 and column 2, lines 38-43);

- a voice-data storage (storage means; figure 2, element 12) storing the voice-data (column 3, lines 19-25);

- a voice-data take-out circuit (expander circuit; figure 2, element 20) receiving the control signal detected by said control signal detector (column 2, lines 38-43) and taking out a kind of the voice-data corresponding to the control signal from said voice-data storage (column 1, lines 57-63); and

a voice reproduction circuit (expander circuit; figure 2, element 20) converting the voice data received from said voice-data take-out circuit to an audible signal of the voice message (column 3, lines 38-40), and reproducing the voice message (column 4, lines 40-48); and

a voice output device (speakers or earphones) outputting the voiced message reproduced by said voice reproduction circuit (column 1, lines 14-19 and column 3, lines 40-41).

Regarding **claims 4 and 13**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer and a guide system further comprising a start button (keys) beginning of execution of said control signal detector (column 3, lines 25-29 and column 4, lines 1-16). It is inherent that the "selection means consisting of ten keys" would provide a start button to select one of the booths and once the desired booth is selected, the chosen booth will begin delivering the information.

Regarding **claim 5**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer wherein said control signal is a radio signal of a faint power level (less power; column 1, lines 29-33), and said control signal detector receives the radio signal from outside through an antenna (receiving section; figure 2, element 19; column 4, lines 54-58).

Regarding **claim 6**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer wherein said control signal is a light signal (infrared light), and said control signal detector receives and detects the light signal from outside (column 3, lines 8-19).

Regarding **claims 7 and 14**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer and a guide system wherein said voice-data storage has equipped a voice-

data memory medium, which is attachable and removable (portable) and has stored a plurality of kinds of said voice-data therein (column 1, lines 29-33 and column 5, lines 4-10).

Regarding **claims 8 and 15**, Hirohama discloses a portable type voice reproducer and a guide system further comprising a class selector (selection means; figure 2, element 13) selecting one of message classes (languages; column 2, lines 10-17 and column 3, lines 19-25), which are included in each of the kinds of the voice-data corresponding to each of the voice messages (column 1, lines 55-56).

Regarding **claim 9**, Hirohama discloses a guide system (column 1, lines 41-48), which guides each of a plurality of guide objects by a corresponding voice message by use of a portable type voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33) comprising:

signal transmitters (transmitting units; figure 1, 4A, 4B, 4N), each of which is arranged at each of said guide objects and transmits a signal for discrimination of said corresponding guide object continuously at least during execution of the guide (column 4, lines 1-16); and

said portable type voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33), which reproduces and outputs a voice message (column 4, lines 40-53) selected from a plurality of kinds of voice-data to be data for voiced messages (column 1, lines 55-57), respectively corresponding to the guide objects (column 1, lines 41-48), comprising;

a detection means (receiver; figure 3, element 29) detecting a signal received from said signal transmitter corresponding to the voiced message (column 3, lines 52-53);

a start button (keys) beginning execution of said detection means (column 3, lines 25-29 and column 4, lines 1-16). It is inherent that the "selection means consisting of ten keys" would provide a start button to select one of the booths and once the desired booth is selected, the chosen booth will begin delivering the information;

a storage means (figure 2, element 12) storing the voice-data (column 3, lines 19-25);

a take-out means (control means; figure 2, element 11) taking out (reading out) a kind of the voice-data from said voice-data storage corresponding to the signal detected by said detection means (column 1, lines 57-63); and

a voice reproduction means (D/A converting section; figure 2, element 21) converting the voice-data received from said take-out means to an audible signal of the voice message (column 3, lines 38-40), and reproducing and outputting the reproduced voice message outside (column 4, lines 40-48).

Regarding **claim 10**, Hirohama discloses a guide system (column 1, lines 41-48) which guides each of a plurality of guide objects by a corresponding voice message by use of a portable type voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33), comprising:

control signal transmitters (transmitting units; figure 1, 4A, 4B, 4N), each of which is arranged at each of said guide objects and transmits a control signal for discrimination of said corresponding guide object continuously at least during execution of the guide (column 4, lines 1-16); and

said portable type voice reproducer (portable terminal units; column 1, lines 29-33), which reproduces and outputs a voice message (column 4, lines 40-53) selected from a plurality of kinds of voice-data to be data for voice messages (column 1, lines 55-57) respectively corresponding to the guide objects (column 1, lines 41-48), comprising:

a control signal detector (control means; figure 2, element 11) receiving and detecting the control signal, which is received from said control signal transmitter (column 1, lines 57-63 and column 2, lines 38-43) and prepared for use of selection of one kind of the voice data corresponding to the detected one of said control signal transmitters (column 3, lines 30-38);

a voice-data storage (figure 2, element 12) storing the voice-data (column 3, lines 19-25);

a voice-data take-out circuit (expander circuit; figure 2, element 20) receiving the control signal detected by said control signal detector (column 2, lines 38-43) and taking out a kind of the voice-data corresponding to the control signal from said voice-data storage (column 1, lines 57-63);

a voice reproduction circuit (D/A converting section; figure 2, element 21) converting the voice-data received from said voice-data take-out circuit to an audible

signal of the voice message (column 3, lines 38-40), and reproducing the voice message (column 4, lines 40-48); and

a voice output device (speakers or earphones) outputting the voice message reproduced by said voice reproduction circuit (column 1, lines 14-19 and column 3, lines 40-41).

Regarding **claim 11**, Hirohama discloses a guide system wherein said control signal is a radio signal of a faint power level (less power; column 1, lines 29-33), and said control signal detector receives the radio signals from said control signal transmitters through an antenna (receiving section; figure 2, element 19; column 4, lines 54-58).

Regarding **claim 12**, Hirohama discloses a guide system wherein said control signal is a light signal (infrared light), and said control signal detector receives and detects the light signals from outside said control signal transmitters (column 3, lines 8-19).

Regarding **claim 13**, Hirohama discloses a guide system wherein said portable type voice reproducer further comprises a start button (Execution button) beginning of execution of said control signal detector (column 8, lines 12-14). It is inherent that the "selection means consisting of ten keys" would provide a start button to select one of the booths and once the desired booth is selected, the chosen booth will begin delivering the information.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- U.S. Patent No. 3,751,583 to Lemelson discloses a commutation system for generating recorded information.
- U.S. Patent No. 5,896,215 to Cecil et al. discloses a multi-channel system with multiple information sources.
- U. S. Patent No. 5,020,155 to Griffin et al. discloses an audio commentary system.
- U.S. Patent No. 5,412,719 to Hamamoto et al discloses a radio paging system with voice transfer function and radio pager.
- U.S. Patent No. 6,032,112 to Onishi et al. discloses a voice data processing device.

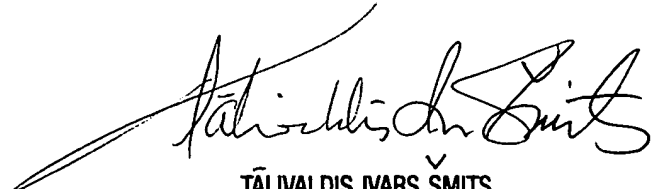
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R Jackson whose telephone number is 703.305.5593. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis I. Smits can be reached on 703. 306-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9314.

Art Unit: 2655

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.4700.

JRJ
December 31, 2003



TĀLIVALDIS IVARS SMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER